

# Platycterium bifurcatum

plat-ee-SIR-ee-um by-fur-KAY-tum

**Common Names:** Common Staghorn Fern, Elkhorn Fern

**Family:** Polypodiaceae

**Origin:** Southeast Asia, Australia, Polynesia

**Growth:** Clumping

**Light:** Bright, indirect

**Foot Candles:** 100 - 175

**Water:** Keep evenly moist

**Humidity:** 50% - 75%

**Temperature:** 18°C - 28°C

**Soil:** Peat-based potting soil

**Container:** Self-watering,  
mounted on wood

**Nutrients:** Not required

**Propagation:** Spore, tissue culture, or division of rhizome

**Interiorscape Use:** Living wall, mounted art



**Common Pests:** Mealybugs, Aphids, Spider Mites, Thrips.

**Common Issues:** Root rot when sitting in water. Leaves brown when over-watered, leaves droop and drop if under-watered, leaves crisp with too much light.

**Comments:** This interesting plant is not your average household fern. Featuring antler-like fronds has prompted collectors to display the fern in different ways, the most common being to mount it to a piece of wood like a plaque to imitate a taxidermy stag head. This fern naturally grows attached to wood, making this both an ideal place to grow and an appealing method to display. The 'basal' leaf helps the plant to attach itself to trees and retain moisture.

**Toxicity:** Safe.

